

## **Inductive Bible Study**

*("In da Bible" - the study method where the Bible is its own best commentary)*

### **Tools Needed:**

- a good translation of the Bible in a study Bible format - ie. NIV Study Bible
- an exhaustive concordance in that translation,
- a Bible dictionary - ie. New Unger's Bible Dictionary,
- a map of the area being studied,
- a Greek/Hebrew dictionary - ie. Strongs Greek/Hebrew Dictionary
- a cross reference tool - ie. The Treasury of Scripture Knowledge
- a good commentary - ie. The Bible Knowledge Commentary

\*Note - comprehensive and inexpensive computer programs now exist that contain these and many more reference tools - ie. PC Study Bible and Quick Verse

*Inductive Bible study as taught by Precept Ministry involves three phases:*

### **I. Observation - Repetition is very important to grasping the Word**

- A. Know the context**
- B. Mark the people (develop your own marking system)**
- C. Make lists**
- D. Underline key words**
- E. Mark references to time**
- F. Mark geographical places**
- G. Use maps**
- H. Make an "at a glance chart"**

### **II. Interpretation - For each passage ask the 5 W and 1 H questions (the six "honest serving men")**

#### **A. Ask:**

1. who are the featured persons in this section of Scripture?
2. what is the progression of events?
3. where are the events taking place?
4. when are the events taking place?
5. why are the events taking place? (the motives involved)
6. how does the action of the story effect the participants?

#### **B. Look up cross references**

#### **C. Read a good commentary or two on the passage**

#### **D. Do a word study of key words**

### **III. Application - What are the "timeless principles" in the passage and how do I apply them to my life? (Knowing God will transform your life!)**

## 16 Other Important Bible Study Methods

(Many of these are *topical* studies. All of those listed below, however, may be applied to a passage, a book, or the entire Bible)

1. *The Synthetic Method* - reading a book through several times emphasizing a different aspect of study ie. geographical, historical, doctrinal, etc.
2. *The Analytical Method* - diagramming the grammar of a passage, outlining the text, making observations on the text
3. *The Critical Method* - studying to determine authorship, recipients, dates, etc.
4. *The Biographical Method* - determining the biographical facts concerning a Biblical personality
5. *The Historical Method* - determining what life was like at the time and in the area under consideration
6. *The Theological Method* -the consideration of the explicit doctrinal teaching
7. *The Literary Study of the Bible*- the aesthetic appreciation of its incredible poetry and prose
8. *The Rhetorical Method* - the study of the figures of speech in a passage ie. metaphors, similes, etc.
9. *The Geographical Method* - the comprehensive study of a specific area of land
10. *The Sociological Method* - examining the people in a particular passage and how they relate to one another
11. *The Political Method* - the study of the governments involved
12. *The Cultural Method* - studying the religion, science, music, art, architecture, literature, and language of a culture discussed
13. *The Scientific Method* - examining the plants, animals, and minerals mentioned
14. *The Philosophical Method* - studying to find what God has already said about the problems common to man
15. *The Psychological Method* - studying a book to determine the basis of our conduct
16. *The Devotional Method* - simply reading and enjoying the text with a spirit of eagerness and humility

**S** cripture   **O** bservation   **A** pplication   **P** rayer